

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

11 July 1951

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Cottbus airfield was observed from 1 to 6:30 p.m. on 22 May 1951. Three groups, which totaled 22 twin-engine aircraft, were parked just in front of the hangars. (1) There was no flying. A total of approximately 150 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets were seen in the heavily guarded airfield area.

2. Sections of the Cottbus-Burg road, which had been blocked in the vicinity of the field, had been levelled. Gardens east of the field had been evacuated because of the enlargement of the field. An area west of the runway was being levelled. (2) A ditch had been dug across the landing field in east-west direction, probably for the installation of clay pipes, 130-cm in diameter, which were piled up nearby. Two construction huts were seen in the middle of the field. A total of 150 to 160 German workers, most of them wearing blue FDJ shirts, were observed in the airfield area. According to local residents, these workers had been screened carefully for their political reliability. They were constructing an athletic field.

3. About noon on 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 26, and 28 May 1951, two jet bombers were seen over Cottbus heading west at an altitude of approximately 4,000 meters. None of the planes landed at Cottbus airfield. (3) There was little flying activity at the field during the period from 15 to 23 May 1951.

4. Construction work was observed near Zehsow in the extension of the runway. From the earthwork observed it appeared that the subground was to be fortified. (2)

5. On 27 May 1951, it was observed from a point near the radio installation at Kolkwitz that three egg insulators, about 10 cm apart from one another, were fitted in the middle of one of the six thin wires running down from the top of the mast. The insulators were grounded by a line or a thin rope. (4) A four-section ribbed insulator was fitted at the mast about 60 cm above ground. A horizontal wire led from the insulator to the radio truck. It is believed that the mast and the upper sections of the thin wires were functioning as an antenna, which was fed via the bottom of the mast.

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 Comments.

- (1) The airfield is occupied by a bomber regiment equipped with PE-2 type aircraft.
- (2) This indicates that either an extension of the runway to the west or an over-run is planned.
- (3) This observation may be training flights by type 27 bombers stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany or the transferring of additional aircraft of this type to the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- (4) Refers to a runway localizing beacon.

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